

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/768,231

Applicant(s)

STEIGER ET AL.

Examiner

Elizabeth F. McElwain

Art Unit

1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed 1/30/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☒ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/30/04
4. ☒ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REQUIREMENT OF ALLOWANCE UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.801-1.809

The Deposit Statement filed November 23, 2004 is deemed in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.801-1.809. Therefore, no 35 USC § 112, first paragraph rejection has been maintained even though it is apparent that XB31U04 soybean seed is essential to the claimed invention and that the deposit is necessary for an adequate written description and enablement for the claimed invention.

Since the application is otherwise in condition for allowance except for the needed deposit of XB31U04 seed and since the Office has received written assurance that an acceptable deposit will be made on or before payment of the issue fee, the Office is authorized to mail Applicant a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due together with a requirement that the needed deposit be made within THREE (3) MONTHS of the mail date of this letter (see 37 CFR § 1.809(c)).

Under 37 CFR 1.809(c)(d) an applicant is required to make a deposit of seed within three months after the mailing date of the Notice Of Allowance and Issue Fee Due. The period for satisfying this requirement is extendible under § 1.136, however, failure to make the needed deposit of seeds of XB31U04 will result in abandonment of the application for failure to prosecute. The deposit statement in the specification, and all claims which refer to the instant seeds by name, must be amended to include the deposit accession number. In the instant application claim 1 must be amended to recite the deposit accession number. These amendments should be submitted before the payment of the issue fee as an Amendment After Allowance under 37 CFR 1.312. If the amendment is received after the payment of the issue fee the same should be made under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.312(a) and a petition filed under 37 CFR 1.183 to waive the requirement of 37 CFR 1.312 that the amendment be filed before or with payment of the issue fee, that is, it must be accompanied by a fee in accordance with 37 CFR 1.17(i) and a petition which includes "a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented and why justice requires waiver of the rule"). Finally, the statement of deposit in the specification shall contain:

- (1) The accession number for the deposit(s);
- (2) The date of the deposit(s);
- (3) A description of the deposited biological material sufficient to specifically identify and to permit examination; and
- (4) The name and address of the depository. (See 37 CFR 1.809(d)).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed XB31U04 soybean seed is deemed free of the prior art, given that the prior art of record fails to teach a soybean plant having all of the physiological and morphological characteristics of

Art Unit: 1638

XB31U04 soybean. Note soybean 9581419733880 disclosed in US Patent 6,211,443, which has similar traits, yet has purple flowers instead of white flowers; and a Relative Maturity of 3.9, which differs from the Relative Maturity of 3.1 for the claimed soybean variety. Also note soybean 9422376106692 disclosed in US Patent 5,981,850, which has similar traits to XB31U04 soybean, yet has purple flowers and a Relative Maturity of Group I.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth F. McElwain whose telephone number is (571) 272-0802. The examiner can normally be reached on increased flex time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones can be reached on (571) 272-0745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

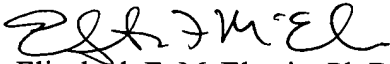
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 1638

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.


Elizabeth F. McElwain, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1638

EFM